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Today's Weather.

Western Oregon and Western Washington—Sunday partly cloudy; possibly occasional rain.

Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington—Generally fair.

PROPOSED NEW HOTEL.

It is becoming very evident that the proposed new hotel is in a state of innocuous desuetude. About four months ago a mass meeting of the citizens was held to take action in securing a hotel for Astoria. After several meetings and a thorough discussion of the proposition, it was the unanimous sentiment that a hotel was a necessary adjunct to Astoria, and acting upon the advice of the meeting, a committee was appointed to formulate plans and report; also to draw up articles of incorporation to carry the project into effect. The committee has certainly been diligent in the discharge of their duties. It was composed of representative men identified with the interests of the city; men of large experience in public affairs, and a committee in which the community placed implicit confidence.

The demand for a new hotel is just as strong today as it was when the committee was appointed, but a feeling of unrest exists among the enterprising people, who claim that the committee should either report or resign. This latter demand is of doubtful propriety, as the present committee is faithful and efficient, and if they displayed as keen an interest in rushing the proposition forward as a large majority of the people do, they would have had their plans ready and formulated a line of action.

There is, or ought to be, sufficient public spirit and enterprise in Astoria to build a hotel. When it is considered that Astoria has not a first-class hotel; that it is a city of 14,000 inhabitants; the second largest city in the state, and that its hotels are the poorest of any city of half its size on the Pacific coast, it does not speak well for the enterprise and public spiritedness of its citizens. The masses are not to blame, but the dilatory tactics pursued by a committee appointed to carry out the expressed wishes of the people in retarding the construction of a new hotel does not meet with popular favor.

If similar conditions existed in any city on the sound of from 2500 to 14,000 inhabitants, and a meeting was called for the purpose of providing adequate hotel accommodations, where no hotels existed, not only would the committee have reported within 24 hours, but sufficient money would have been raised within a week to build a hotel. There are just as many enterprising citizens in Astoria today as on the sound, but to use a scriptural quotation, they need "an awakening of the holy spirit," or something akin to it. Development has become a component part of the life and existence of Astoria as is attested by the construction of one of the finest court houses on the coast; the building of a city hall, and construction of many handsome dwellings during the past year. This spirit of enterprise so manifest, should not be allowed to lag, but should be fostered.

If, however, the committee cannot agree and have decided to let the matter rest, then a meeting should be called and some other plan of action adopted.

The Lewis and Clark fair will be held next year. Thousands of visitors will come to Astoria to visit the world-famed history, which bears an important part in the discoveries of Lewis and Clark. Astoria will be a place of historical interest. There is much to be done to place Astoria in a position to receive and properly entertain these visitors. It will be the best advertisement of our natural resources that is possible to attain. If old, tumbled-down shacks are allowed to exist; if we have no hotel accommodations for visitors, it will create a bad impression, and people will go away disgusted, and Astoria will be put down in the category of mossback towns, lacking in enterprise, thrift and civilization. These are matters that should be considered by the people interested in the hotel project and an incentive for the committee to report its findings of fact and conclusions of law.

In this connection it may be suggested that there is important work for

the Civic Improvement League, auxiliary of the Woman's Club. It can insist on a general cleaning up, and its request will not go unheeded by those whose duty it is to remove nuisances, clear the streets and alleys of rubbish, plant trees and shrubs and otherwise beautify the city so that it may present an inviting appearance to the thousands of people from the east who will be the guests of the city. Another mass meeting of all the citizens should be called immediately and the work outlined carried out according to the wishes of a large majority of our progressive citizens.

A SUNDAY SERMON.

There are man young men in Astoria who believe that it is an honor to be able to live without work. It is needless to say that later in life they will discover the error of entertaining such belief and the discovery is usually made to their sorrow. The man who starts life with the intention of living by his brains alone, and who makes up his mind that work is unnecessary, is laying up a stock of trouble that will keep him interested until he reaches his last resting place—which will not be in the Eternal City. The gambler, the confidence man and the professional schemer are all of the same class. Sons of wealthy parents who hang around public resorts, some of a questionable nature, are a nuisance and their contaminating influence reveals a depraved nature. They are all imbued with the determination to secure a living from the labors of others without themselves producing anything, and their efforts all come to the same end, and that end is misery.

Many young men who would otherwise travel the right road are led astray by bad companions who influence them by telling them that it is foolish to work and be industrious. To the man who has formed the habit of working, it is a pleasure. There is nothing that brings the joy of success and success is achieved by being everlastingly employed in some legitimate and honorable pursuit. The dollars that come as the result of schemes are of no value, and the man who secures them in that way can never enjoy spending them. Our penitentiaries are full of men who started life with the intention of making their living easy. The intention of traveling the road of luxury and ease leads to dishonesty. There never was a man who at the beginning meant to be dishonest. When the first step is taken it is usually because it is believed to be sharp, and to gain the approbation of dissolute companions.

The refining influences of the church is the proper place for young men to acquire a knowledge of the duty he owes to himself and the community. No possible harm can come from attending church, at least once a day, while the beneficial results attained may be of lasting benefit. Young men, although they may not be religiously inclined, who are frequent visitors of the churches, are more respected, even by the vicious element, than those who put in their time playing cards and visiting places of questionable resort. Some of these young men will soon step upon the world's field of action to uphold and direct our commonwealth, and it is essential for the perpetuity of the state and nation that their early training be such as will command the respect of the community. These are matters which the young men of Astoria will do well to study and consider, and if right habits are formed in early youth, there will never be any feelings of regret in after years.

WEATHER RHAPSODY.

Here is a short weather rhapsody, clipped from an exchange notorious for its clipping propensities, and written, therefore, by we know not whom. Old King Frost has arrived at last. He has put life into the slow and reluctant schoolboy and has chased the ruddy glow of health into the brightened faces of all. Only the atmosphere remains drab and colorless. Still seas of ashen gray are flooding the landscape with a sentiment of sadness, even the locor of last year's circus poster and the advertisements of breakfast foods seem glum as their deckle edges flap and ripple on the coal yard fence. Over the countless leagues of gray gloom and gloomy gray the pirate crow drifts and circles and breaks the dreary silence with a strident tone of woe. The compass of the pump is strangely still and o'er the listless saw the farmboy slowly trails the meat rind. The farmer's soul is filled with a golden prescience for against the infinite greenness of the woodshed a four hundred-pound hog is swinging in the silence by the hinder members, with a corn cob to keep his now songless jaws ajar. The barn door bangs once emphatically then bangs no more. And it is only the poet of chaste yearning who notes the cold, gray draperies that hover over all.

When they opened the safe of a New York man who had been arrested for larceny, they found it contained nothing but hymn books. That in itself probably will be enough to convict him in New York.

There is a sect in Russia which has for its object the extinction of the human race. We have a similar sect here but we call them "Bachelor girls."

A KIT CARSON KID

Nine-Year-Old Boy Goes Gunning for Game.

WAS ARMED TO THE TEETH

Left His Home to Live in a Cabin Because His Father Abused Him And He Decides to Become A Bad Man

Berkeley, Dec. 17.—Anxious to taste life as he had read of it in dime novels of the wild west pattern, Roy Trevorton, a nine-year-old lad living in San Francisco at 2384 Mission street, came to Berkeley today armed to the teeth, prepared to give the folk in the university town a "run for their money," as he informed a woman in North Berkeley of whom he desired information as to "where game could most likely be found."

The tiny youth carried a .38-caliber revolver as he faced the housewife at her front door, and in his hand was a sack that bulged with tools and implements of war. The woman gasped in amazement at the sight of the miniature Kit Carson, and, standing with arms akimbo, said:

"What do you expect to do with game if you should find it? Why aren't you at home with your mother this very minute? Tell me that."

Master Roy Trevorton told her. He was looking for an audience. The housewife served his purpose.

"I," said the wee youngster, brandishing his big revolver, "live in San Francisco, but I am going to stay in Berkeley and be a hunter and live in my own cabin. My father has not been kind to me. He beats me, and I am tired of it. I am going to be a guide and a hunter and kill game and eat some and sell the rest in Berkeley. I've got a saw and an ax and a hammer and some nails in this sack—"

And here Master Trevorton produced those implements wherewith he spoke. They were, as he phrased it, the "real thing," as was also his revolver, which latter was to bring down the ferocious bear and nimble deer and other game that haunts the Berkeley hills.

Trevorton's ambitions in the line of life in the great forest had no sooner been communicated to the housewife than she telephoned to Marshal Kern's office, informing him that a small boy, running wild up in North Berkeley, required his attention. Deputy Marshal H. S. Howard was sent out and soon returned with boy, revolver, ax, saw and hammer. Trevorton's dream of life a la Robin, Daniel Boone and other gentlemen of the green award and the long trail was at an end. He wept copiously, but submitted. His father, who is employed in the Union Iron works in San Francisco, when informed of the capture of his son, came to Berkeley and took his offspring to the paternal roof across the bay.

* FORT IS SAFE.

(Continued from Page 1.)

with the dressing and bandaging and also help to get the meals.

"In Harpin the volunteer surgeons and nurses have been a blessing. All of the doctors in the town have given their service voluntarily and many of the ladies who never saw a bandage before the war have gone into the hospitals and become skillful nurses.

One of the things that will need some explaining when the war is over, is how the Chinese bandits got their winchesters but there are many Mausers and Japanese rifles among them, and stranger of all, many Russian rifles from the government factory, rejected by the inspectors but which could not have come into the hands of the bandits unless they had been stolen and illicitly sold.

"There was an artillery officer in the station at Mukden when I last passed through. He had been in seven battles and had the St. George's cross. He holds that the average Russian artillery is the equal of the Japanese while their latest quick firers are better. But in the earlier fighting he says the Japanese proved better gunners and more adaptable in placing and making their batteries. The Russian guns in the earlier fights always occupied the crests of the hills and fired point blank. The result was that they were knocked out by the Japanese batteries every time. But now the Russians are using little except high angle fire. It is not unusual to have a battery 200 yards in the rear of a hill top and the fire is governed entirely by artillery and signals. The result is that now the Russian artillery more than holds its own with the Japanese."

FEATHERS BARRED.

Embargo Raised by Order of Court.

New York, Dec. 17.—A decision has been rendered by Judge Platt, in the United States circuit court reversing

P. A. STOKES

"Swell Togs for Men."

MERRY YULE-TIDE

And our store jammed full of everthing that goes to make the man or boy happy. We will be pleased to help you in your selections.

Store open every evening till eight o'clock

FOR WINTER LEISURE
there's a world of satisfaction in the

Smoking Jackets
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Not High-Priced Goods, for Gift Purposes Only, but Popular Novelties, in Popular Fabrics, at Popular Prices—to supply the wants of the every-day man who appreciates House Comfort. Let us show you the lines—you'll be willing to pay more than we ask.

Store open every evening till eight o'clock

REMEMBER everything guaranteed to give satisfaction or money refunded.

P. A. STOKES

"Swell Togs for Men."

the ruling of the board of appraisers in the matter of levying duty on crude feathers imported into this country.

The court holds that such feathers are not "ornamental" and should not be made to pay duty at the rate of 50 per cent ad valorem.

The industry affected by this decision is a large one, thousands of paid workers being employed by the manufacturers. For several years the general appraisers have rendered conflicting decisions as to the proper classification and rate of duty on crude feathers intended to be manufactured for millinery purposes, at one time holding them dutiable at 15 per cent ad valorem, and at another time holding them to be dutiable at 50 per cent ad valorem as "ornamental."

SMOOT'S GRIEF.

Assisted at Making an Apostle of Mr. Primrose.

Washington, Dec. 17.—More important testimony was brought out today at the investigation of the protests against Senator Smoot than at any time at the present session of congress. Witnesses Charles H. Jackson, chairman of the democratic state committee in Idaho; John Nicholson, chief recorder in the Mormon temple at Salt Lake City; Charles W. Primrose, editor of the Deseret News, and apostle of the Mormon church; William Budge, president of the Bear Lake Stake in Idaho, and Apostle John Henry Smith of Salt Lake.

Primrose was elected an apostle last July and the attorneys for Senator Smoot admitted the senator was present and participated in the election of Primrose.

Primrose testified he is polygamous and was known as such at the time he was made an apostle.

The testimony of Jackson and Budge related to a political affairs in Idaho, the former being a prominent Mormon, and the latter active in protecting the interests of the church. An examination of John Henry Smith was not concluded when the committee adjourned.

MILL MEN OBSTINATE.

26,000 Mill Hands Are Still Out of a Job.

Fall River, Mass., Dec. 17.—A conference was held here today between representatives of the cotton manufacturers and the striking employees, but no agreement was reached, and, as a consequence, 26,000 mill hands are out of employment and a settlement of the great strike seems as far away as ever. The conference was brought about as a result of a trip of the strike leaders to New York last week, during which a conference was held with President Gompers, John Mitchell and members of the civic federation.

An Iowa lad is said to have a defect of the eyes which causes him to see the world upside down. Probably the same disease has afflicted Mr. Lawson.

A local newspaper threatens to give away skates for Christmas. Never mind. There will be plenty of skates on Christmas without the assistance of the press.

Come and See what we Have to Show You in

HOLIDAY GOODS

Our Stock is complete and better than ever before.

J. N. GRIFFIN

The Christmas edition of the Tillamook Herald was received yesterday. For the benefit of the heathen editors of Tillamook county, it may be stated that Christmas occurs on December 25, not on December 13. If these newspaper scoops continue, some of the "no excuse for living" journals of Oregon will be issuing Christmas editions on the 4th of July.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

A Large and Varied Assortment at Ekstrom's.

Here are a few articles which will make suitable and handsome Christmas presents for anyone. All popular and stylish, cheap in price, but high in quality. Read: Silver novelties in numerous different patterns, handsome cut glass pieces, sterling silverware, ebony goods in brushes, glasses and toilet sets, fancy umbrellas and canes, match boxes, tableware, fine chains, chafing dishes, carving sets, special watches, diamonds, broches and a thousand other things. It will pay you to consult our prices before going elsewhere.

H. EKSTROM, Astoria, Ore.

Best meals in town at the New Style Restaurant.

Worst of All Experiences.

Can anything be worse than to feel that every minute will be your last? Such was the experience of Mrs. S. H. Newson, Decatur, Ala. "For three years" she writes, "I endured insufferable pain from indigestion, stomach and bowel trouble. Death seemed inevitable when doctors and all remedies failed. At length I was induced to try Electric Bitters and the result was marvelous. I improved at once and now I'm completely recovered. For Liver, Kidney, Stomach and Bowel troubles Electric Bitters is the only medicine. Only 50c. It's guaranteed by Chas. Rogers Druggist."

Go to the New Style Restaurant for a square meal.

Now is the Time To ORDER CHRISTMAS POULTRY.

The best Turkeys, Geese and Chickens in the city, fed on wheat and corn, at the

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